

characterized as claims 11 to 13. In the Office Action mailed December 9, 2002, the first group was characterized as claims 1 to 13. In a telephone conversation on January 31, 2003 with Attorney Dean, Examiner Patten indicated the Office Action mailed December 9, 2002 was promulgated to correct the characterization of the claims of the first group.

Applicants' Amendment mailed December 5, 2002 in response to the Office Action mailed November 5, 2002 is deemed to address the issues raised in that Office Action as well as the Office Action mailed December 9, 2002. Applicants request appropriate consideration of the Amendment mailed December 5, 2002.

Allowance of claims 1 to 13 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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